



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*OK to enter*  
*AP*  
*11/17/04*

Applicant: James E. Hanson

Serial No.: 09/717,856

Filed: November 21, 2000

For: METHOD, APPARATUS PROVIDING AUTONOMOUS  
DISCOVERY OF POTENTIAL TRADING PARTNERS IN A  
DYNAMIC, DECENTRALIZED INFORMATION ECONOMY

Examiner: Patel, A., B.

Art Unit: 2154

Confirmation No.: 8479 Attorney Docket: YOR-2000-0426US1

**RESPONSE UNDER RULE 116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the final Office Action dated August 16, 2004, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

The remarks set forth in the Amendment submitted on May 11, 2004 are incorporated in their entirety by reference with respect to each rejection.

The final Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 10, 11, 16-18, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,176 to Woolston, hereafter Woolston, in view of Official Notice.